

The menu at the Manor House Hotel has been updated and now has a more international theme



through to the vibrant bar area. We tried the Tapas style evening menu and chose from a wide selection of small plates, which included meat and fish dishes, vegetables, salads and side orders. Prices were very reasonable, starting at just £1.95. There were also about six or seven different specials available as well, many of which have now been incorporated into a new menu, which launched at the start of December.

In fact the new menu has been completely redesigned by the head chef Sam Parnell. He explained: "The Tapas menu here has always had a traditional Spanish feel to it, but we wanted to give it more of an international theme. There are exciting flavours from around the world on the new menu, including Thai fish cakes, Moroccan Cous Cous and Greek salad, to name but a few.

"It's a great chance for myself and Oliver to be creative and bring the freshly cooked food we love to local people and visitors to Dronfield. We're hoping the new menu will really mark the



Manor House restaurant out as one of the best in the area."

An appetiser of spiced olives, served with crusty bread, got the ball rolling and we quickly followed this up with garlic prawns, paella and, from the specials board, monkfish with rocket, crème fraiche and a sweet chilli dip. The latter was definitely the highlight of the evening; the meaty fish was well cooked and complemented by the zingy chilli dip and crunchy breadcrumb coating.

We also tried spicy meatballs and chorizo al vino, both again equally good.

For dessert we chose homemade chocolate fudge cake and Sam's dark chocolate soufflé, both served with ice cream. They were rich and deliciously decadent, just as they should be.

After such a hearty feast – the little plates can be deceiving – we retired to our room, one of 11 at the Manor House Hotel. All the rooms – two suites, five doubles and four singles – have been



Meet the twins... Sam and Oliver Parnell

Change, it seems, is definitely a good thing, particularly if you're the Manor House Hotel in Dronfield.

In 12 months the historic grade II listed building has been transformed into a charming boutique style hotel, bar and restaurant.

There's nothing minimalist, cold or clinical about the Manor House Hotel though; it's warm, welcoming and still retains a host of its classic features, including beamed ceilings and stone fireplaces. The restyle, which was carried out by Lisa Designs, has really hit the spot.

One of the biggest changes has been in the kitchen where twin brothers – Sam and Oliver Parnell – have recently taken

the helm. Both are just 21 but already have strong backgrounds in catering.

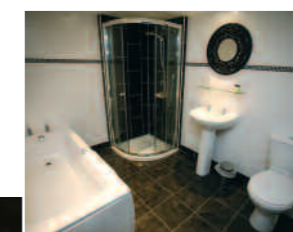
Sam, who is head chef, previously worked at the Beauchief Hotel in Sheffield and The Angel in Holmesfield. Oliver, who successfully pursued a business degree, also has banqueting experience at both Sheffield Wednesday and Sheffield United football clubs.

Food is served from 7am and ranges from breakfasts to daytime snacks and evening Tapas.

There is a buzz in the Tapas restaurant that extends



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There was plenty of room to spread out in the Loren Suite (main picture and above), which featured original oak beams, stone walls and picture windows juxtaposed with chic contemporary design



individually designed, are en-suite and have flat screen televisions and free wireless internet access. Prices start at £65 for a single room, rising to £80 for a double and £125 for a suite.

We stayed in the fifties-themed Loren Suite (there's also a Hepburn Suite), which featured original oak beams, stone walls and picture windows juxtaposed with chic contemporary design. There was plenty of space to spread out with a separate lounge area and the bathroom was huge, with both a bath and walk-in shower.

After a good night's sleep we rose to a hearty full English breakfast, washed down with steaming mugs of

tea – the perfect start to the day and the ideal platform to explore the surrounding area.

The Manor House Hotel is privately owned by business partners Stephen Geary and Kevin Gage. It is situated on Dronfield High Street close to all the local shops and restaurants. Dronfield itself is located an equal distance between Chesterfield and Sheffield and is only a short car journey away from either.

However, perhaps the biggest attraction is its proximity to the beautiful and

picturesque Peak District National Park. Just 15 minutes in the car and you can be exploring Chatsworth House or Bakewell.

The hotel caters for all kinds of special occasions and private functions as a small hotel they can be very flexible in meeting any of your individual requirements.

Whether you're calling in for a drink, want a bite to eat or need somewhere to stay, albeit in the lap of luxury, the Manor House Hotel comes highly recommended.

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